



## Christmas Message from the Chair of Governors

Earlier this year I was proud to be appointed as the new Chair of Governors for Toot Hill School and Sixth Form College. Having been a student myself, many years ago, the school has always held a place in my heart and I have watched it grow, develop and become 'Outstanding' over the years of being away from the local area. On returning to Bingham in June 2019 and having been a Governor elsewhere, I felt it was a prime opportunity to join the Board of Governors and give my time, experience and passion for education back to my local community.

Since joining the Board, all our lives have changed – in March 2020 the world almost came to a standstill, our daily routines become somewhat different, our contact with loved ones, family and friends altered and fractured, communication has become virtual through a screen or via a telephone - one thing I can assure that has not changed has been the devotion, the tenacity and the sheer hard work of every member of the schools staff team in ensuring our children remain at the heart of the school, in their learning, their safety and their wellbeing.

Our children's lives have changed disproportionately with exams cancelled, home schooling, virtual learning, not seeing their classmates and friends, but through the hard work of the school and the support from us as parents and carers our children will survive and reach their aspirational goals and achievements. The significance of this should be recognised now and in years to come, while our children are flourishing, achieving great things and making headway in the world of Higher Education and work. The children need to be proud of what they are and have achieved and will go on to achieve in the future, all through adversity but supported by us all around them. They will have great stories to tell – 'remember that year when all exams got cancelled and the teachers went above and beyond to make sure we could get good grades, the grades we achieved and deserved' 'that summer we stayed at home and did home learning', 'that year we had to wear masks inside school'.

Whilst none of us can predict the future, the end of the pandemic or what the post-covid world will look like, what we can give assurances around is that the school community will continue to meet the needs of our students, support them and their families and deliver the very best level of education to ensure that every single student is provided with the opportunities they need.

I would like to thank the students for their support in the changes that have had to be made around the school to ensure that both staff and students are safe. These changes will continue as we all learn about keeping each other safe and I would ask you to support the school with the importance of social distancing, washing hands and wearing masks – we all need to take responsibility.

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I would like you to join me in thanking the school community for their hard work and commitment to the school and our children – home schooling is not as good as we all first thought!

And finally, I would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your support of the school and your patience, when the learning curve has been somewhat challenging for us all.

*S Szulcewski*

**Sarah Szulcewski**  
**Chair of Governors**